

## Add these coding resources to your must-have list for 2009

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<http://justcoding.com/224632/add-these-coding-resources-to-your-musthave-list-for-2009>

This article provides a summary of the books, handbooks, Web sites, and newsletters that can help you stay on top of all the coding twists and turns the New Year will bring.

### General coding resources

Bookmark these commonly-used Web sites for reference:

- Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services Web site ([www.cms.hhs.gov](http://www.cms.hhs.gov)).
- American Medical Association (AMA) Web site ([www.ama-assn.org](http://www.ama-assn.org)).
- American Health Information Management Association (AHIMA) Web site ([www.ahima.org](http://www.ahima.org)).
- Department of Health and Human Services Web site ([www.medicare.gov](http://www.medicare.gov)).
- Office of Inspector General Web site ([www.oig.hhs.gov](http://www.oig.hhs.gov)).
- American Academy of Orthopaedic Surgeons Web site ([www.aaos.org](http://www.aaos.org)).
- American Academy of Professional Coders (AAPC) Web site ([www.aapc.com](http://www.aapc.com)).
- National Library of Medicine Web site (<http://www.nlm.nih.gov>).
- MedLine® Web site (<http://medline.cos.com>).
- McGraw-Hill's AccessMedicine Web site (<http://www.accessmedicine.com>).  
This resource includes clinical diagnostic information.
- Cahaba Government Benefit Administrators, LLC [Web site](#). This site includes a grid that lists modifiers for Medicare billing.
- Local fiscal intermediary Web sites.

### Inpatient coding

Consider the following important resources:

- [2009 ICD-9-CM Manual](#). HCPPro publishes this must-have inpatient coding manual every year.

- [ICD-9-CM Official Guidelines for Coding and Reporting](#). Use this resource, published by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, for all of your inpatient coding needs.
- [CPT Changes 2009: An Insider's View](#). In this book, the AMA offers its interpretation and rationale for every new, revised, and deleted CPT code and guideline change.
- [Coders' Desk Reference for Diagnoses 2009](#) (published by Ingenix).
- [Coding Clinic](#) (published by the American Hospital Association).
- [Coding & Reimbursement for Hospital Inpatient Services](#) by Karen S. Scott, MEd, RHIA, CCS-P, CPC (AHIMA).
- [Dorland's Illustrated Medical Dictionary, 31<sup>st</sup> Edition](#). You can register your copy and receive complete access to the online dictionary and medical spell checker. (<http://www.dorlands.com/wsearch.jsp>).

In addition, keep these training handbooks and Web sites on hand to encourage communication and assist physicians in documenting terminology that reflects patients' true severity of illness and risk of mortality so coders can assign accurate and specific ICD-9-CM codes:

- The Association of Clinical Documentation Improvement Specialists  
([www.hcpro.com/acdis](http://www.hcpro.com/acdis))

And finally, don't forget to subscribe to this monthly HCPro newsletter that provides coding, documentation, and billing guidance for healthcare organizations:

- [Briefings on Coding Compliance Strategies](#)

## **Outpatient coding**

Consider adding the following resources to your list:

- [2009 CPT Manual](#). This outpatient coding manual should be on every coder's list.
- [2009 HCPCS Level II Manual](#). HCPro publishes this vital coding manual every year.
- [The National Correct Coding Initiative Policy Manual for Medicare Services](#). Download and read this manual to prevent improper payment and avoid reporting incorrect code combinations. The manual includes information about coding, modifier use, and much more.

- [\*CPT Assistant\*](#). The AMA publishes this resource that includes coding scenarios, timely coding advice, and coding questions/answers.
- [CPT Coding Helpline \(800/634-6922\)](#). Purchase an annual subscription to this AMA service, and the answers to your CPT coding questions are only a phone call away.

Don't forget to add the following newsletters and subscriptions:

- [\*APC Answer Letter\*](#). Subscribe to this monthly HCPro newsletter and have access to an expert advisory panel that will answer all of your APC-related coding questions.
- [\*APC Payment Insider\*](#). Subscribe to this monthly HCPro newsletter that focuses on the latest coding and policy changes affecting Medicare outpatient billing under APCs.
- [\*Briefings on APCs\*](#). Read this monthly HCPro newsletter to better understand the complexities of the changing rules for OPPS and APCs and the impact they will have on hospital health information management systems and processes, including coding, documentation, and billing.
- [New England Journal of Medicine](#). You can purchase an annual subscription by clicking on this link.

### **Evaluation and management coding**

Bookmark this resource for all of your evaluation and management (E/M) coding needs:

- [\*Evaluation and Management Services Guide\*](#). In this document, you will find information about the key elements of service as well as links to the 1995 and 1997 E/M guidelines.

### **Medical anatomy/terminology**

Consider adding the following resources to your list:

- [\*Medical Abbreviations: 30,000 Conveniences at the Expense of Communication and Safety, 14th edition\*](#). Neil M. Davis Associates publishes a book every two years for medical abbreviations, acronyms, and symbols, as well as a cross-referenced list of generic and brand drug names. When you purchase this book, you'll also have 24-month access (from the time of

initial login) to a Web site that posts all additions/updates to the book, and you can use a search engine search the complete text of the publication.

- [\*Atlas of Human Anatomy, 4th Edition\*](#). Frank H. Netter, MD, publishes this must-have book that contains anatomical illustrations to help you understand various diagnoses and procedures.
- [\*The Merck Manual of Diagnosis and Therapy, Eighteenth Edition\*](#). Add this resource written by more than 300 medical experts to your wish list.
- [\*Physicians' Desk Reference, 2009, 63<sup>rd</sup> Edition\*](#). Use this resource published by Thomson Healthcare, or pick from a variety of drug reference books published within the last two years for the latest information about prescription drugs, including proper spellings, dosages, interactions, FDA-required information, and more.
- [\*Stedman's Abbreviations, Acronyms & Symbols, Fourth Edition\*](#). Use this resource for access to more than 75,000 abbreviations, acronyms, and symbols for medical language specialists and medical, health, and nursing professionals. This resource includes more than 7,500 new abbreviations, slang abbreviations, expansions, acronyms, symbols, and appendices.

### **Specialty coding resources**

- [\*Complete Global Service Data for Orthopaedic Surgery, 2009 Edition\*](#). If you code orthopaedic surgery, include this resource (available in February 2009) on your wish list; the American Academy of Orthopaedic Surgeons details inclusions and exclusions for more than 1,500 musculoskeletal procedures.
- [\*Dr. Z's Medical Coding Series: Interventional Radiology Coding Reference, 2009\*](#). Use this reference, published by ZHealth Publications, for your interventional radiology coding needs, including coding examples, cross-references, and illustrations/charts.
- [\*2009 Coders' Dictionary\*](#). This resource, published by Ingenix, lays the groundwork for understanding medical terminology from a coder's perspective, meeting the specific needs of medical coders, admitting clerks, billers, and adjudicators.

### **Other educational coding resources**

Be sure to sign up for several upcoming [HCPro audio conferences](#) to ensure that you stay up-to-date with the most recent coding guidelines. Some topics to look forward to in 2009 include:

- ["2009 OPPS Final Rule: Analyze the Impact and Manage the Changes"](#) (December 10)
- ["2009 ASC Coding: Manage Final Rule Changes and Resolve Common Billing Errors"](#) (December 18)
- ["Respiratory Conditions: Understand Disease Processes and Coding Guidelines for Accurate MS-DRG Assignment"](#) (January 6)
- ["Injection and Infusion Coding and Billing"](#) (January 20)
- ["ICD-10: Develop a Blueprint for Implementation"](#) (January 29)

### **General coding resources**

To maintain your continuing education credits, browse this extensive list of [HCPro e-learning courses](#) for CPT, ICD-9-CM, and ICD-10 coding.

And, of course, maintain your subscription to the weekly online newsletter [JustCoding.com](#), which is your one-stop source for articles about coding medical conditions, treatments, diseases, and procedures. JustCoding.com also provides HIM director advice, coding quizzes, reader polls, and answers to all of your coding questions. Your subscription also allows you to earn continuing education credits with the AAPC and AHIMA.

For weekly updates about coding rules and regulations, as well as answers to your tough coding questions/scenarios, subscribe to one of HCPro's free weekly e-zines:

- [APCs Weekly Monitor](#)
- [JustCoding News](#)
- [HIM Connection](#)
- [CDI Strategies](#)

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